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Perfect World

Rie Aruga

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ch.9

Outstretched Hand...

[If at any time she has any problems,]

[or when she is sad,]

[I will immediately go to her side, stay with her and comfort her]

[...]

[What do you mean by that?]

[A declaration of war.]

STARTLE

AYUKAWA!

I'M GLAD THE COMPUTER GOT FIXED.

KO-KOREEDA-KUN HAS GONE HOME ALREADY.

UMM... THAT--

DID HE SAY ANYTHING?

AH... YOU'RE BACK.

WHAT'S WRONG?

NOTHING.

--NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS SAY, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

I HAVE ALREADY MENTALLY PREPARED MYSELF.

IF I HAD NO AWARENESS TOWARDS HER I WOULD NOT HAVE STARTED DATING HER—

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

... MAKES ME FEEL LIKE SOMETHING DID HAPPEN...

WHAT'S WITH THE "NO, HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING." ...?

.....

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GO HOME.

THANKS A LOT FOR TODAY.

OKAY ...

-- NO HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

...HE WAS JUST JOKING.

BESIDES,

HE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED ME AND SMILED SAYING IT WAS A JOKE...

WHY MUST YOU BE IN SO MUCH PAIN AND SADNESS FOR THAT GUY!!

HIS HOLD WAS TIGHT...

...BUT,

Tsugumi, you didn't even call home, we're very worried. Are you still dating that guy on the wheelchair? Your father has something to say to you. Best if you come home for a while.

MUM?

Vibrate

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO THEM---

WHY MUST YOU FORCE ME?!

IT'S SUDDENLY... REALLY HARD TO BREATHE...

Haaah

Haahh

Badump

EH, HOW ODD...

Badump

Ha Ha

SHE'S HYPER-VENTILA-TING.

OH NO ...

ARE YOU OKAY ?!

Haah

Haahh

Haahh

RELAX

SLOWLY BREATHE IN AND OUT, IT WILL BE FINE.

WHAT TO DO...

WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?

Huff

Huff

BECAUSE WE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WIDTH OF THE WHEELCHAIR AND ALLOW A 140CM WIDE CIRCLE ALLOWANCE.

THE AISLE ALSO HAS TO BE A BIT WIDER,

AH, I SEE.

140cm

BECAUSE DISABLED PEOPLE USUALLY LIKE TO STAY AT HOME

IF WE MAKE THE STRUCTURE EASIER FOR THEM TO GO OUT, THEY MIGHT DO SO MORE OFTEN.

HAVING A SHORTER DISTANCE FROM THE FRONT DOOR TO THE LIVING ROOM WILL BE BETTER,

THE FRONT DOOR CAN GO HERE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

THAT WILL, PERHAPS, BRING SOME CHANGES TO THE DESIGN OF THE APARTMENT.

THIS SUNDAY, KAWANA AND I HAVE DECIDED TO WALK HERE FROM THE STATION TO TEST OUT THE DISTANCE.

NOW BECAUSE OF MUM'S TEXT, MY BREATHING HAS BECOME CHAOTIC ...WHAT DOES THIS MEAN...?

I'VE NEVER HAD HYPERPNEA BEFORE...

RAIN FALL/ PELT

RAIN FALL/ PELT

THIS RAIN IS REALLY HEAVY.

THE WEATHER REPORT DIDN'T SAY IT WOULD HAVE HEAVY RAIN TODAY~~~!

I'LL GO CATCH A TAXI

WAIT FOR ME HERE.

OKAY, THANKS FOR THE TROUBLE.

OPEN

!

HOW DANGER-OUS.

UNDER SUCH HEAVY RAIN, PEOPLE PROBABLY DON'T NOTICE THOSE ON WHEELCHAIRS. I NEED TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION.

CHILDREN RUNNING IN THE RAIN, PEOPLE OCCASIONALLY BUMPING BACKS ON THE ROAD...

CLOSE BOOT

That

HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS AWAY?

AH, LET ME DO IT.

I SHOULD TRY A LITTLE HARDER--

OKAY.

HERE, A SEAT CUSHION.

NOT IN THE SLIGHT-EST!

I'M FINE.

EH?

KAWANA, YOU'RE ALL SO-AKED.

ARE YOU TIRED?

HUFF

HUFF

AH...

KOREEDA-KUN
090-××××-××××

HUU...

Vibrate

SORRY,

I'M IN THE CAR RIGHT NOW

WITH AYUKAWA.

SORRY,

I HAVE TO TAKE THIS CALL.

BEEP

YEAH,

THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY.

KAWANA?

ARE YOU FREE TO TALK NOW?

THAT WAS JUST A SMALL JOB SO DON'T THINK TOO MUCH ON IT.

TO BE PRUDENT, I'LL TELL YOU CLEARLY FIRST--

KOREEDA-KUN AND I ARE JUST ﾐFRIENDSﾐ.

AYUKAWA,

UM...

.....

I SEE.

SORRY.

IT'S FINE, WE'LL TALK NEXT TIME.

IT WAS KOREEDA-KUN.

BEEP

THIS ISN'T GOOD.

SHE IS KEEPING ME AT ARM'S LENGTH...

NOISE

CHATTER

OKAY.

I KNOW.

I BELIEVE YOU.

EVEN WHEN I ENTERED UNIVERSITY OR AFTER WORKING IN SOCIETY

I WOULD STILL OFTEN THINK OF HER...

I HAD THOUGHT THAT ONCE I GOT OLDER, I WOULD FORGET EVERYTHING FROM HIGH SCHOOL...

ALL THE WAY TILL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, I NEVER TOLD KAWANA MY TRUE FEELINGS.

KOREEDA-SENSEI, ARE YOU NOT GOING TO EAT LUNCH?

NO.

what's wrong?

IT'S RARE TO SEE YOU SO DOWN...

BUT WHO KNEW THAT ONE DAY THE THOUGHT —〝I REGRET NOT CONVEYING MY FEELINGS〟,

WOULD ENTANGLE AROUND ME LIKE A VINE, KEEPING ME TRAPPED.

.....

SITTING STILL...

CALL HER ANOTHER TIME.

DON'T BE RESTLESS.

CALM DOWN A LITTLE.

PLACE PHONE

SUNDAY IS GOOD.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?

.....

Thanks for your work—

EH?

AFTER YOU PACKED YOUR STUFF, YOU STOPPED MOVING.

AH, I MIGHT HAVE ZONED OUT FOR A BIT.

KAWANA-SAN

ARE YOU BACK WITH US?

STARTLE

KAWANA-SAN.

I ALWAYS END UP SLEEPING LATE...

EVERYDAY GOING TO AYU-KAWA'S HOME THEN GOING BACK TO MY HOME...

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

MY WHOLE BODY WAS IMMOBILE...

DID I NOT SLEEP WELL...?

EVEN THOUGH AYUKAWA TOLD ME NOT TO FORCE MYSELF...

I SOME-HOW FEEL KAWANA-SAN

HAS LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT...

BUT IF I DON'T GO, I CAN'T BE ASSURED...

GOOD EVENING.

JUST CAME BACK FROM ITSUKI-KUN'S PLACE?

GOOD EVENING ...

GOOD-

AH,

Nervous

OKAY,

SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU TO BRING MEDICINE SO LATE AT NIGHT.

YEAH, THEN I'LL BE LEAVING FIRST.

THIS IS MY JOB.

I'M GIVING HIM SOME MEDICINE.

YES,

WHAT ABOUT NAGA-SAWA-SAN...?

AH, MEDICINE.

WHAT?

GOING HOME IS BORING.

BESIDES, I'M ALONE NOW.

vibrate

tremble

DIDN'T AYUKAWA SAY...

NAGASAWA-SAN... IS ALREADY MARRIED...?

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO CALL BACK?!!

YOU FINALLY ANSWERED THE PHONE.

TSUGUMI?

...AH, MOM...

SORRY, I'VE BEEN BUSY LATELY.

YOU'RE DAD IS PRETTY ANGRY TOO.

My body

Is sway-
ing...

I feel
like

IF YOU'RE
NOT FREE,
WE'LL GO TO
TOKYO TO
FIND YOU.

NO MATTER
WHAT, COME
HOME.

DON'T SAY
ANYMORE

IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT,
LISTEN...

N-NO
WAY!!

HE SAID SOME-
THING LIKE [EV-
ER SINCE SHE
STARTED DATING
THAT GUY, SHE
SEEMED TO
HAVE CHANGED]

...EH?

How odd...

Eh,

HEY, KAWANA.

KAWANA.

I want to move forward but I can only freeze and stop...

And I'm always hesitant in front of reality.

Reality is... crueller than I expected.

THE EXPRESS TRAIN ON PLATFORM 2 WILL BE ARRIVING SHORTLY

THERE ARE NO WORKERS AROUND ...

WE NEED TO CALL A WORKER HERE TO HELP...

ARE... YOU ALRIGHT?

AYU-KAWA,

I...

YOU CAN GO NEXT WEEKEND.

MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T GO TO THE SITE TODAY.

I WANT TO MOVE IN WITH YOU.

IF IT'S LIKE THAT

THEN NO ONE WILL...

SWAYING

WHY DO YOU SUD-DENLY--

WHAT'S WRONG, KAWANA?

...WHAT?

bump

AH-

SORRY

KAWANA

HEY!

swerve

HEY.

SWEARS

KAWA-
NA----!!

THUD

SFX: KYAAAA

S-SOME
...

SOME-
ONE FELL
DOWN!!

QUICKLY,
SOMEONE GO
PRESS THE STOP
BUTTON FOR
THE TRAIN!

WAHHH
HH———

SFX: YAHHH

IT'S DANGER-OUS!

PULL BACK A LITTLE!!

IF I RETREAT, I CAN'T SEE HERE!!

PLEASE!!

ANYONE!! PLEASE HELP!!

SFX: CLATTER

YAHHH HHHH

WAHH HHHH HHHH

THE TRAIN IS SOON ARRIVING ON THIS SIDE.

jumps down

I BEG OF YOU!!

KAWANA !!!

SFX: DING DONG, DING DONG.

IT'S TOO LATE. WE WON'T MAKE IT.

SFX: WAHHHH, YAHHHH

KAWANA !!!

KAWANAAA ——!!

YOU CAN'T GO OVER THERE!

SFX: ZOOM

ALL TOGETHER NOW!

SFX:- CLATTER, CLATTER

SFX: SILENCE

.....

THANK GOOD-NESS...

CONFIRM-ED SAFE.

...SOME HELP HERE!

READY, STEADY.

NOISY

IT'S ON ITS WAY.

NOISY

WHERE'S THE AMBU-LANCE!?

KA-KA-WANA!!

KAWANA!!

NOISY

NOISY
IS SHE ALONE?
I AM!
NOISY
NOISY
HER PART-NER...
PLEASE CONTACT SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAN ACCOMPANY HER TO THE HOSPITAL.
QUICKLY!
RING RING RING RING
QUICKLY PICK UP...!!
ISN'T PICK-ING UP
...NABE-SAN
RING RING RING RING

HER BAG!!

WHAT?

THAT --

PLEASE HAND THAT TO ME.

HER PHONE IS RINGING!!

PLEASE PICK UP...

NAGA-SAWA-SAN!

TAKE OUT

NOISY

KOREEDA-KUN
090-

NOISY

UMM, THAT

KAWA...

ACCEPT CALL ...

KOREEDA,

SOME-
THING HAS
HAPPENED
TO KAWANA.

PLEASE
...

SFX: DASH

COME
HERE
...

YES.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

I'VE INFORMED THEM.

AS WELL AS THOSE AT THE TRAIN STATION...

KAWANA'S MOTHER IS ON HER WAY HERE.

WHAT ABOUT HER WORK?

PLEASE CALM DOWN, SHE'LL BE FINE.

ONCE THE RESULTS ARE OUT, I WILL CALL YOU IMMEDIATELY.

WHICH ONE OF YOU IS KAWANA-SAN'S FAMILY?

T/N - C-reactive protein (CRP) is a plasma protein produced by the liver. It is one of a group of proteins called "acute phase reactants" that go up in response to inflammation in the body.

HER STOMACH DOES NOT SEEM TO BE DOING WELL.

HER BLOOD TEST RESULTS CAME. HER CRP* VALUE IS VERY HIGH.

AND SHE ALSO HAS A 39 DEGREE HIGH FEVER.

FRACTURE...

ALSO, WHAT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT IS...

BUT THE FRACTURE IN HER RIGHT LEG WILL NEED AT LEAST TWO MONTHS TO HEAL.

THE WOUND ON HER HEAD IS JUST FLESH,

SO HER LIFE IS NOT IN DANGER.

THERE IS NO ANOMALY IN HER BRAIN

SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AWARE, BUT THE RESULTS SHOW THAT SHE HAS BEEN IN A STATE OF EXTREME FATIGUE.

EVEN IF SHE'S FAT-IGUED, THERE SHOULD STILL BE A LIMIT.

DAMMIT...

SHE ACTUALLY FELL FROM THE PLAT-FORM...

LEAN AGAINST

I'LL GO GIVE KAWA-NA'S MOTHER A CALL.

...OKAY

THANKS FOR TODAY...

——— ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

AYU-KAWA.

I'M FINE.

SHE WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES...

SHE COULD
HAVE BEEN SAVED
MUCH EASIER

IF I...

IF I...

I had a dream.

In the dream, I saw

when I fell from that platform.

Ayukawa frantically stretched out both hands towards me.

It could very well have caused him to fall with me.

If I had taken his hand then,

I find my weak self despicable.

In the dream,

I silently cried at my own weakness and incompetence.